DETAILED ACTION

The instant application 10/517,574 is presented for examination by the examiner.

Claims 1, 6-9, 16, 18-22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 35 are pending

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Guy Eriksen on 12/3/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (as currently amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ adapted to communicate via a network, comprising:

a firewall including a set of rules for identifying packets associated with inappropriate activity, the rules in the set being separated into a plurality of classes; and

an indicator device for providing a plurality of user discernable indicators, wherein each of the plurality of user discernable indicators is associated with a different one of the plurality of classes and is visually discernable, and wherein a respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered if one or more of the rules corresponding to one of said

plurality of classes associated with the respective one of said plurality of user discernable
indicators is violated,

wherein the rules in the set are prioritized such that each of the plurality of classes
represents a respective different one of a plurality of priority levels,

wherein each of the plurality of user discernable indicators except a particular one is
associated with the respective different one of the plurality of classes, the particular one of the
plurality of user discernable indicators being associated with an affirmative status that filtering is
being contemporaneously performed for any of the packets that violate the one or more rules,
and ~~wherein the method further comprises filtering any of the packets that violate the one or
more rules, and wherein the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators is
concurrently triggered, along with the respective one of the plurality of user discernable
indicators, to indicate that the filtering is being contemporaneously performed, only when a
number of the packets that violate the one or more rules exceeds a pre-specified threshold~~
wherein the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators along with the respective
one of the plurality of user discernable indicators are concurrently triggered, only when a number
of the packets that violate the one or more rules exceeds a pre-specified threshold to indicate that
the filtering any of the packets that violate the one or more rules is being contemporaneously
performed.

16. (as currently amended) A cable modem, comprising:

downstream processing circuitry;

upstream processing circuitry;

a controller in communication with said downstream circuits, upstream circuitry, and a
memory;

a firewall program including a set of rules for identifying packets associated with
inappropriate activity, the rules being separated into a plurality of classes, said firewall program
being resident in said memory and executable by said controller to cause examining data of
packets from said downstream and upstream circuitry; and

a plurality of user discernable indicators that are each visually discernable, wherein each
of the plurality of user discernable indicators is associated with a different one of the plurality of

classes and wherein a respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered if one or more of the rules corresponding to one of said plurality of classes associated with the respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is violated, and wherein the rules in the set are prioritized such that each of the plurality of classes represents a respective different one of a plurality of priority levels,

wherein the firewall program is executable by said controller to cause filtering any of the packets that <u>violate</u> at least one of the rules, and wherein each of the plurality of user discernable indicators other than a particular one is respectively associated with the different ones of the plurality of classes, the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators being associated with an affirmative status that filtering is being contemporaneously performed, and wherein the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered, concurrently with the triggering of the respective one of the plurality of user discernable indicators, if the one or more of the rules is violated, the filtering is performed by the firewall program, and a number of the packets that violate the one or more rules exceeds a pre-specified threshold.

19. (as currently amended) The <u>cable modem</u> ~~apparatus~~ of claim 16, wherein said plurality of user discernable indicators comprises a highlighted icon displayed on a computer device.

22. (as currently amended) The <u>cable modem</u> ~~apparatus~~ of claim 16, wherein the firewall program is executable by said controller to cause filtering of any of the packets that violate the one or more rules irrespective of a number of the packets that violate the one or more rules, but wherein the respective one of the plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered only when the number of packets that violate the one or more rules exceeds a pre-specified threshold.

32. (as currently amended) The <u>cable modem</u> ~~apparatus~~ of claim 16, wherein only the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered if the one or more of the rules is violated, the filtering is performed by the firewall program, and the number of the packets that violate the one or more rules does not exceed a pre-specified threshold.

34. (as currently amended) The ~~cable modem~~ apparatus of claim 16, wherein whether the respective one of the plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered or is not is based on which of the plurality of priority levels is involved with respect to a corresponding rule violation.

   In the specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 28 is marked up below:

   Optional steps 308, 312, and 316~~314~~ provide a threshold level that must be

   Reasons for Allowance

   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

   Applicant's arguments, filed 10/27/09, with respect to claims 1, 7, and 16 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

   The closest prior art of record fails to teach "wherein the particular one of the plurality of user discernable indicators along with the respective one of the plurality of user discernable indicators are concurrently triggered, only when a number of the packets that violate the one or more rules exceeds a pre-specified threshold to indicate that the filtering any of the packets that violate the one or more rules is being contemporaneously performed" in combination with rest of the claims' limitations. Each

of the independent claims contains an equivalent limitation in scope. This specific

scenario with respect to the indicators, filtering, and threshold in conjunction with the

claim firewall would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 6-9, 16, 18-22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 35 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL R. VAUGHAN whose telephone number is (571)270-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. R. V./
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/William R. Korzuch/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431